

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending September 28, 2003

Released: 3:00 P.M., September 29, 2003

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 28, 2003**. Initial rain showers slowed crop harvest Statewide early in the week. As the week progressed, improved climate conditions gave way to continued harvest for all row crops across the State. Soil moisture was rated 11 percent short, 80 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Harvested	96	92	95	96	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Open Bolls	90	82	95	98	3	7	17	51	22
	Harvested	30	17	20	35					
Rice	Mature	99	95	99	97	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	75	65	72	74	--	--	--	--	--
Sorghum	Harvested	98	94	98	97	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	95	92	93	95	--	--	--	--	--
	Shedding Leaves	86	78	83	85					
	Harvested	65	59	49	52					
Wheat	Planted	22	9	12	8	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	9	--	0	2	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	98	95	98	95	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	45	40	40	46	0	11	29	25	35
Cattle						0	3	34	54	19
Pasture						0	6	28	55	11

County Agent Comments

"There were four to five inches of rainfall this weekend, soaking fields and stimulating fall forages. Pastures are really good for this time of the year. The last cuttings of hay are being harvested. Soybean harvesting is about ready to start. Cotton has a chance of making a good yield considering the late planting."

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

"The cotton harvest is starting well, with some early planted farms making good progress. Late planted corn is still being harvested, and maturity group IV soybeans are mostly harvested now. Most of the area lost one day due to rains this past week, but amounts should not be a problem. Harvesting should resume Monday and Tuesday in areas where rainfall amounts were high."

— Ernie Flint, Carroll

"Typical fall weather arrived this week, lowering humidity as well as temperatures. Corn harvest is winding down and soybean harvest is just beginning. Forage producers took advantage of the fall weather to harvest late hay crops. Pastures and hay fields are still excellent due to summer-long ideal moisture conditions."

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Ideal conditions exist for hay and corn harvest. Cotton is looking much better, with higher yield predictions than earlier this year.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Currently, 75 percent of corn and 80 percent of hay have been harvested. Beef producers continue to delay planting ryegrass as a result of 2003 ryegrass disaster with blast disease. Cattle are in great condition. Blueberry growers are preparing to put in new acreage this fall and fields are also being prepared for strawberries.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

“Harvesting continued last week. This weather is great for getting the crops out of the field.”

— Don Respons, Bolivar

“All we need now are kind words and dry, sunny weather until November.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Approximately 3.5 to 4 inch rain stopped all harvest early in the week. Pickers and combines started easing back out into the fields by mid-week. Rain fell slow and the wind didn't cause any problems. If we can get a pretty good run of sunshine, we'll get this good crop out.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Producers are harvesting corn and cotton. Harvest aid chemicals are being applied to cotton fields that were planted later than normal.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We got 3 to 3.5 inches of rain last Sunday. It stopped everything for about 4 days. We are ready to start picking if the weather will cooperate.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Sunday rains last week stopped harvest until Thursday. Some machines ran this Sunday to try to catch up. Harvest is going well with yields reported good to excellent.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“The cotton harvest is starting well. Late planted corn is still being harvested, and maturity group IV soybeans are mostly harvested now. Most of the area lost one day of work to rain last week. Harvesting has resumed.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“Cotton and peanut harvest continues with good yields. Cattle are losing some body condition due to over mature grass. Hay harvest is continuing and it seems that there will be adequate supplies this year. There are no major reports of insects attacking field crop. Some brown patches are showing up in lawns.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Cooler, drier weather has moved into the area allowing producers to work on getting winter pastures completed. Most all of the corn has been harvested.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from September 22, 2003 to September 28, 2003 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston	87	58	71	70	+1	3.49	+2.77	1	5.39				
Cleveland				71		2.51	+1.90	1	4.89				
Tunica	87	54	71	71	0	1.85	+1.22	1	3.92	83	66	74	0.11
Extreme/Average	87	54	71	72	-1	2.62	+1.85	1	4.73	83	66	74	0.11
2. North-Central													
Batesville	88	48	71	70	+1	3.10	+2.33	1	3.90				
Calhoun City	86	51	70	70	0	3.10	+2.33	1	5.87				
Independence	85	46	67	69	-2	2.00	+1.23	1	3.94				
Oxford	89	47	70	69	+1	3.47	+2.63	1	4.79				
Extreme/Average	89	46	69	70	-1	2.92	+2.10	1	4.63				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	86	54	69	69	0	3.17 E	+2.34	1	4.62E				
Corinth City				71		2.30	+1.35	1	4.39				
Iuka	85	43	65	67	-2	6.63	+5.69	3	7.16				
Ripley	82	47	66	69	-3	2.65	+1.78	2	5.20				
Tupelo	87	53	72			4.21		2	5.81				
Verona				71		3.55	+2.66	1	5.51				0.19
Extreme/Average	87	43	68	70	-2	3.75	+2.86	2	5.45				0.19
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				73		2.50	+1.80	1	4.20				
Rolling Fork	93	53	74	72	+2	1.56	+0.79	1	2.34	90	75	82	
Stoneville	90	53	73	72	+1	2.30	+1.53	1	4.94	90	70	79	0.20
Yazoo City	89	55	73	73	0	2.80	+2.09	2	4.00				
Extreme/Average	93	53	73	73	0	2.29	+1.52	1	3.87	90	70	80	0.20
5. Central													
Canton	89	51	71	72	-1	1.45	+0.75	3	3.42				
Carthage	89	52	72	72	0	1.40	+0.63	3	3.43				
Lexington	87	38	65	71	-6	2.60	+1.90	1	5.41				
Eupora	87	49	70	70	0	1.52	+0.61	2	2.34				
Extreme/Average	89	38	70	72	-2	1.74	+0.96	2	3.65				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	88	53	71	70	+1	3.73	+2.83	4	5.69				0.11
Houston	87	44	68	69	-1	3.52	+2.64	2	4.34				
Louisville				70		2.80	+1.92	1	4.00				
State University	89	53	71	71	0	1.65	+0.86	2	2.50	88	47	76	0.15
Extreme/Average	89	44	70	72	-2	2.93	+2.05	2	4.13	88	47	76	0.12
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	89	57	73	73	0	0.74	-0.26	2	3.78	90	72	80	
Natchez	87	60	74	74	0	0.68	-0.16	1	3.95				
Oakley	91	59	74	72	+2	3.28	+2.61	2	4.88	91	73	81	
Vicksburg	88	57	74			1.15		3	3.31				
Extreme/Average	91	57	74	74	0	1.46	+0.62	2	3.98	91	72	80	
8. South-Central													
Collins	86	60	75	73	+2	1.40	+0.46	1	2.93				
Columbia	90	60	76	74	+2	1.66	+0.76	2	2.08				
Tylertown	90	60	75	75	0	2.32	+1.41	4	3.50				
Extreme/Average	90	60	75	73	+2	1.79	+0.94	2	2.84				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	93	56	76			3.11		3	4.51				
Hattiesburg	90	60	75	74	+1	1.10	+0.18	2	1.66				
Laurel	89	58	74	73	+1	3.48	+2.53	3	4.80				
Newton	88	53	72	72	0	1.28	+0.47	2	2.21	83	67	74	0.17
Extreme/Average	93	53	74	73	+1	2.24	+1.39	3	3.30	83	67	74	0.17
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	92	60	76	75	+1	1.55	+0.45	2	4.42				
Gulfport	86	65	76	76	0	1.91	+0.64	2	5.03				
Pascagoula	85	65	76	75	+1	3.02	+1.65	3	3.81				
Poplarville				75		1.50 E	+0.58	1	4.68E				
Waveland	87	64	77	75	+2	1.76	+0.45	3	4.20				
Extreme/Average	92	60	76	76	0	2.06	+0.95	3	4.37				
State	93	38	72	72	0	2.31	+1.46	2	4.01	91	47	77	0.15

DFN = Departure from Normal.